

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for entering and considering Applicant's comments and amendments set forth in Applicant's July 22, 2004 Amendment. In response to the December 16, 2004 Office Action, Applicant responds as follows:

Claim Rejections:

Claims 5-8 are all the claims pending in the application, and currently all of the claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph Rejection – Claims 5-8:

Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the Applicant was in possession of the claimed invention. In view of the following, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

In rejecting the present claims, the Examiner has argued that the features of the claimed disc player are not clearly disclosed or supported by the specification. Specifically, the Examiner has argued that the specification discloses an audio signal mixer with a microcomputer 5 for control specific audio signal mixing functions, but does not disclose a mixer with specific output signal used for controlling a disc player that performs specific functions as claimed and argued in Applicant's remarks. Applicant respectfully disagrees, and sets forth the following discussions.

To simplify the following discussion, the respective claim terms will be discussed separately below. Further, although the following discussions are directed to claim 5, Applicant submits that these arguments equally apply to claim 7, as the respective claims are similar.

“an outputting part which outputs an audio signal read from a disc;”:

Applicant submits that this limitation is disclosed, at least, in the third full paragraph on page 5, of the present application.

Specifically, the present application discloses that “[t]he audio signal mixer is provided with four compact disk players (hereinafter simply called the “CD player”) 1 - 4 which are operated in response to instructions from a microcomputer 5. Upon reproduction, the respective CD players 1 - 4 output audio signals as reproduced signals.” Specification, page 5, para. 5. Thus, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that Applicant was in possession of an outputting part which outputs an audio signal that is read from a disc, at the time the present application was filed.

“a memory for storing a designated address position;”:

Applicant submits that this limitation is disclosed, at least, in the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 of the present application.

Specifically, this paragraph discloses that “when the knob 17a of the slide-type volume control 17, after moved away from the A-end, has reached the B-end, the reproducing operation by the CD player associated with the channel CH_m is stopped in response to the back cue signal, and a pickup (not shown) of the CD player is returned from a currently reading position to a previously specified address position. The previously specified address position has been

specified by the user (editor) and stored in a memory or the like." Specification, pages 13-14.

Thus, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that Applicant was in possession of a memory for storing a designated address position, at the time the present application was filed.

"wherein said disc player starts a reproduction operation when an instruction to start a reproduction is received from said mixing apparatus, and stops the reproduction operation and moves a pickup to an address position stored in said memory to stand by when an instruction to stop is received from said mixing apparatus."

Applicant submits that this limitation is disclosed, at least, on pages 15 and 17 of the present application. Applicant has amended the language of the claim to make this aspect of the claim language clearer, and to more closely follow the language of the present application. Applicant does not admit that the limitation of the previous claim language was not sufficiently described in the present application. However, Applicant has taken the path of least resistance and has amended claims 5 and 7 to clarify the claimed invention, and address the Examiner's concerns.

Turning now to the language of the claims, the present specification indicates that "[w]hen the knob 17a of the slide-type volume control 17 is moved away from the A-end, the CD player 2 is supplied with a start signal to cause the CD player 2 to output an audio signal of the channel CH2." Specification, page 15. Further, the specification also indicates that when "the CD player 1 is supplied with a back cue signal, the CD player 1 stops its reproducing operation, with the pickup thereof returned from its current reading position to the previously specified address position, to enter a waiting state." Specification, page 17. In view of, at least, the foregoing disclosure Applicant submits that a skilled artisan would recognize that Applicant

possessed this aspect of the present application, at the time the present application was filed. Namely, a skilled artisan would recognize that the Applicant was in possession of having a disc player start a reproduction operation when an instruction to start a reproduction is received from a mixing apparatus. Further, it would be also recognized that Applicant was in possession of having a disc player stop the reproduction operation and move a pickup to an address position stored in a memory to stand by, when an instruction to stop is received from a mixing apparatus. *See Specification, pages 15 and 17.*

In view of the forgoing discussion, Applicant submits that a skilled artisan would recognize that Applicant was in possession of the claimed invention, as set forth in each of claims 5-8, at the time the present application was filed. Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph rejection.

Entry of Claim Amendment:

Finally, Applicant notes that the amendments to claims 5 and 7 have been made to address the Examiner's concerns regarding the language of the claim under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph. Applicant submits that the amendment was not made to address any prior art references. Accordingly, Applicant submits that it is proper for the Examiner to enter the present claim amendments, and withdraw the above rejection.

Therefore, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner enter the present claim amendments and allow the present claims.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Application Number 09/931,866

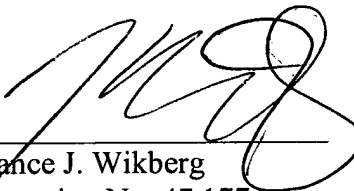
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Art Unit: 2644

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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